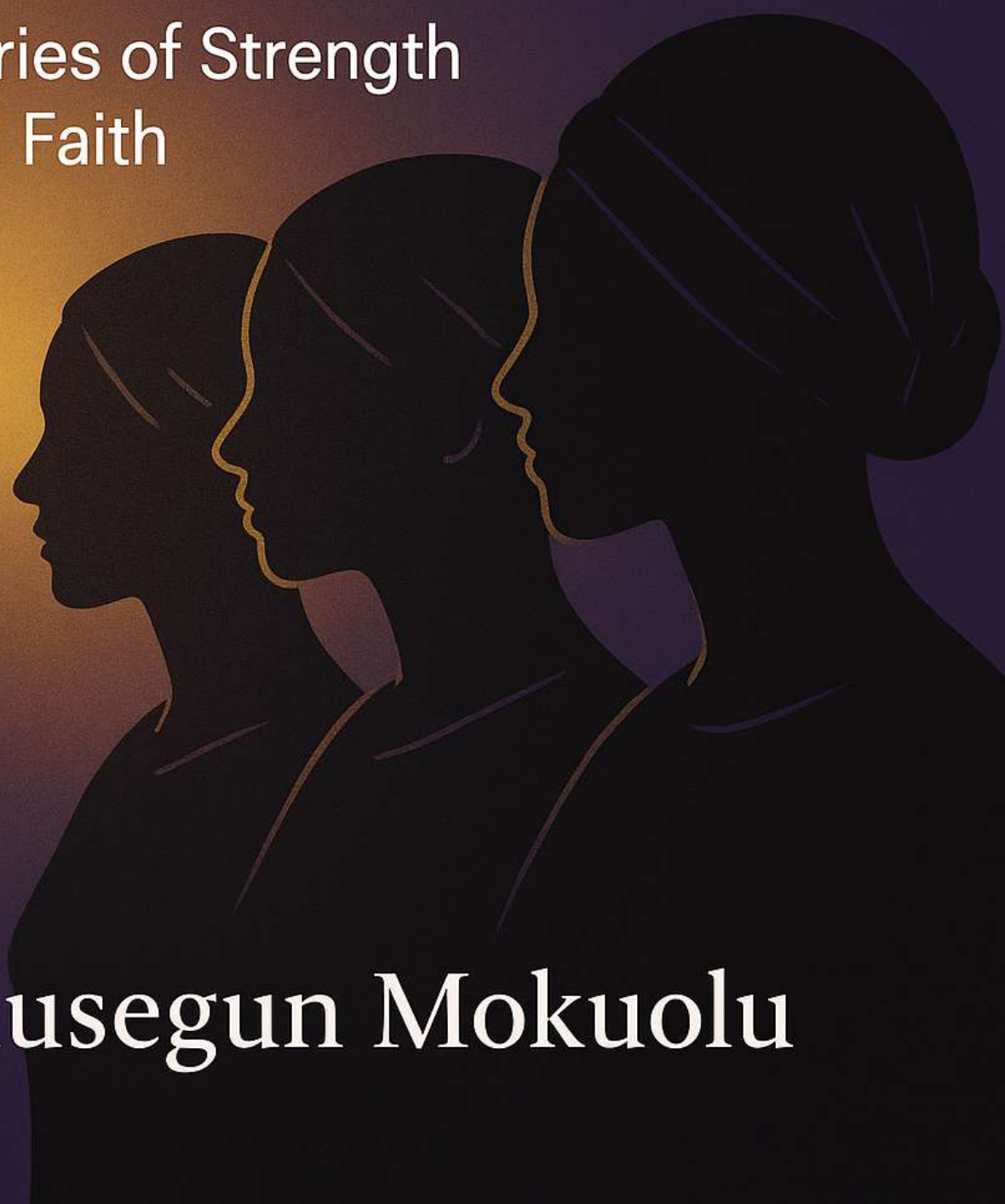


Unsung Women of the Bible

Stories of Strength
and Faith



Olusegun Mokuolu

Unsung Women of the Bible: Stories of Strength and Faith

OLUSEGUN MOKUOLU

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to **Dannree Elizabeth Thompson**

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PREFACE

God in His wisdom has kept the names of some women in the scripture secret. Their names were not revealed in the scripture. Their deeds were however recorded for our edification. They were not known with any name title but several of them did great exploit for the Lord.

Perhaps, there is a lesson for us to learn from this. We are in a generation where people use the gospel to promote their name. This is wrong and should not be found among children of God. The only name that people should know about is Jesus. The only name that we should promote is Jesus. The only name worthy of all honor and glory is Jesus. **“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11)**

We should beware lest our name become common among men. We must never call any ministry after our own name. The practice is strange to the scripture. The practice is contrary to the way the Lord operates. The fact that it is a common practice in our time does not make it right or less sinful. We are told in Exodus 23: 2, **“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil...”** It means that multitude can be wrong. That a number of well-known servants of God are calling ministries after their own name does not mean they are not wrong. We should desist from every activity that promotes men's name.

The deeds of some women are mentioned in the scripture without their name being ever mentioned. They are quiet generals in the army of God. Some of their lives are particularly challenging. Some have taught us through their quiet lives the principles for serving God. Some are placed in much obscured situation but their light radiated through the dark. They never made any noise, yet their lives are outstanding examples for Christian women and men alike.

We must emphasis again that we don't need to promote our name before we affect the lives of God's children. We have allowed the world to enter the church. The desire for fame in the world is the same in the Church. These things should not be. The west has not helped the Church in this matter at all. Unfortunately, Christians around the world copy what they see in churches in the west. This has brought much corruption into the Body of Christ.

The way we slam our pictures on magazines and any materials at our disposal is very revealing. They show that we have not received much dealing from the Lord. Most of what we call Christian programmes on our TV, promotes the man behind it. May God have mercy on us and deliver us from the works of the flesh.

This is the reason why we make much noise with less grace to truly bless the Church. If we are getting ready for a savior who promoted only the name of the Father, then we must repent. As we look at the lives of these quiet women, our prayer is that God would grant us revelation of His truth in our inner man. May the Holy Spirit bring their obscured lives into light that we may see.

CHAPTER 1: WILLING WOMEN

And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered offered an offering of gold unto the LORD. And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought them. Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the LORD'S offering: and every man, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought it. And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen. And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair. (Exodus 35:22-26)

When the tabernacle was to be constructed, God told Moses to tell the children of Israel to provide materials needed for the construction. **“Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,” (Exodus 35:5).** The articles they were to bring are contained in verses 5 to 9. But nobody was to be levied. The instruction is, **“whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD.”** Nobody is to be forced or cajoled to give anything. How I pray we will see this. A willing heart is a requirement. No one was required to pledge anything they don't have.

In the passage we read, we find three categories of women mentioned.

1. WILLING HEARTED WOMEN
2. WISE HEARTED WOMEN
3. STIRRED HEARTED WOMEN

A common factor with all these women is the heart. There was something about their heart that the scripture could not overlook. We don't know them in particular. None of their names was mentioned. But the condition of their heart was mentioned. Without these women the construction of the tabernacle could have been impossible. They made the work of God easy and fast.

WILLING HEARTED WOMEN

The first issue about these women is their willingness to serve God. They were not being forced to serve the Lord. They do not require any one to push them to serve the Lord. When a work is to be done, they responded of their own will. **“and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered offered an offering of gold unto the LORD.”**

Women usually have more jewelry compared to men. That means they must have contributed much more than the men. Women are also naturally attached to jewelries. But these ones were prepared to let go. Can you see the principle? They were prepared to sacrifice their jewelries for the work of God. This they did willingly.

Is it not an irony today that we find Christian women still running after jewelries? Some even go to the extent of displaying it on our pulpits. Some spend quite a fortune on it. Still others who have access to the church funds spend it on material things. The women we read about in Exodus parted away with gold. They parted away with valuables.

The work of God was upper most in their heart. They were ready to part away with any valuables for the sake of God's work. This they did willingly. They only needed to hear the requirement of God and they swung into action. How I pray God would open our eyes to understand what it means for a woman to part with gold. For some, their gold is a wrong man in their life; a man that has hindered their progress with the Lord. For others it's their attitude. An attitude they cherished but which is contrary to the Lord. For some it's endless search for pleasure. For others, it is money. Are you willingly to part with all these for the sake of God's work? There is nothing too precious that you cannot sacrifice for the service of God. Sisters, I pray you really see this truth. These were the women responsible for the provision of the items of the tabernacle. Moses received the revelation of the tabernacle but he needed willing women to contribute to the construction of it. These were women he could help a man to bring to pass the vision of God for his life.

They did not only part with precious items, they did it willingly. This is a very important issue for us. Only an offering made with a willingly heart is acceptable to God. **“For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.” (2 Corinthians 8:12)**

The Lord is still in search of a willing heart. The Lord is looking for women of willingly heart. Women who are prepared to obey the Lord absolutely. Women who will not rationalize and twist the word of God. Will you be such a woman for the Lord? You may not be known in the Church, but heaven knows and sees your work. **“I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.” (Revelation 2:2-3)**

“I know thy works”. Men may not know it but the Lord knows it. You may receive no recognition from man but God is keeping an eye on you. There may be none to write a book on you but the Lord has your name in the Book of Life. We must become people who obey God willingly. God desires greatly a willingly heart as he has revealed in His word. **“And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.” (1 Chronicles 28:9)**

God searches all hearts. That is where He turns His flash light. I think the word of God is very clear on this matter. **“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:” (Isaiah 1:19)**

WISE HEARTED WOMEN

These women whose names are not known to us but whose lives have been speaking to us were only not willing at heart; they were also wise in heart. **“And all the women that**

were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen.”

They were not shallow. The bible says they were wise hearted. The work of the Lord requires a wise heart. A heart filled with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Whenever the Lord needs to build anything, He commits it to men and women who are wise hearted. This truth is re-echoed in Proverbs and 1Corinthians. **“Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.” (Proverbs 14:1)**

“According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.” (1 Corinthians 3:10)

Every wise woman builds her house. Wherever you see a woman breaking down her house, be rest assured that you have found a foolish woman. The common characteristic of every wise woman is that they build. They build men up. They build their children up. They don't ruin men. They do not tear down families and churches. They are builders. They don't sit on the fence. They are engaged in building lives. They don't mind their own business; they seek younger women to build up in Christ. **“Every wise woman buildeth her house”**. Every wise woman without an exception. You cannot claim to be a wise woman and yet be destroying your family and the Body of Christ. You cannot be destroying and defiling men and still say you are wise hearted woman. God is delighted to find women who are wise hearted. **“My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.” (Proverbs 23:15)**

There is no room for shallowness in the Kingdom of God. The word of God should dwell richly in the heart of woman. This is the only way to be wise hearted. It is the word of God in our heart that makes us wise. **“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:15)**

All the books in the world will give us knowledge but it's only the Holy Scriptures that can make us wise unto salvation. The kind of wisdom required for the work of comes from the Holy Scriptures.

A common thing among the children of God is that women are often shallow when it comes to the word of God. Various reasons have been given for this shallowness. One is that women do more domestic work than men and cannot afford the kind of time needed to study the scripture. We acknowledge the role women have played in the life of men. But we are quick to say that the only way to be wise in heart is through the Holy Scriptures. This leaves no room for anyone to give excuses. We can also increase in this grace.

If any woman is wise hearted let her show it in our conducts. **“Who is a wise man (woman) and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.” (James 3:13-15).**

This is very clear. A good conversation is evidence of a wise heart. This should be coupled with meekness of heart. This is how we know a woman that is wife heart. Where there is competition and pride, the wisdom of God is not there. The bible says such is devilish. It is of satan and not God. **“And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen.”** With wise hearted women, the work of God made progress. May this be true of our lives.

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)

STIRRED HEARTED WOMEN

And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair. This is the last issue we shall be considering concerning these willingly unnamed women. They

were stirred hearted women. To be stirred is excite or to put into action. But for these women, they were stirred in their heart. They were not emotional about the issue. They had convictions in their heart after the instruction of God from Moses.

God could move in their heart. This tells a great deal about their heart; a heart available for the service of God. How is the condition of your heart? Is it a heart that can easily be stirred by the word of God? Or are you hard and stiff-necked like Zedekiah? **“Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD. And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.” (2 Chronicles 36:11-13)**

Women who will be effective in the service of God are those who trembles at His word. Those who don't need a third party to obey. Those who can be stirred by their own heart. **“whose heart stirred them up in wisdom.”** Their heart stirred them up in wisdom and not in foolishness. There are those whose heart is stirring them into foolishness. We not be a people that can be stirred up into sin. The cross of Jesus Christ has redeemed us from Sin and delivered from the flesh. Therefore, let your heart stir you up in wisdom.

CHAPTER 2: A CERTAIN WOMAN

There is a woman in the scripture that God simply called a certain woman. She brought an end to the rage of Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal (Gideon). His father Gideon was greatly used of God to bring deliverance to the children of Israel. He rose up at a time when they were in distress and the Lord God gave him victory.

After the victory, we read the following account about him. **“And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: for he had many wives. And his concubine that was in Shechem, she also bare him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.”** (Judges 8:30-31)

He had seventy sons from his wives and one son from his concubine that was in Shechem. Little did he know that the son from a wrong relationship will bring an end to his seventy sons. Abimelech’s desire to become ruler over Shechem led him to murder all his brothers in one day. **“And he went unto his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, being threescore and ten persons, upon one stone: notwithstanding yet Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself. And all the men of Shechem gathered together, and all the house of Millo, and went, and made Abimelech king, by the plain of the pillar that was in Shechem.”** (Judges 9:5-6)

If Gideon had not involved himself in a wrong relationship, his children would have lived a peaceful life. This is what happens when we get ourselves involved in wrong relationships. They return in the future to hunt us. Every wrong relationship you hold on to today will hunt you tomorrow. Even when a man becomes saved some things cannot be made right again. A woman who has slept with several men could still be hunted by that past. Even when she has been washed in the blood, the effect of seeing some of those men after she has settled in marriage may still be painful. Breakaway from every ungodly relationship today!

The bible says, **“Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbour’s wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.”** (Proverbs 6:27-29). God is saying that it is not possible to have wrong relationships and go scot-free. Every adultery and fornication will be brought to judgment. Every kind of cheating will return on the offender one day with the repercussion. Don’t think you can out-smart God. **“Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?”** Repent today and God will make your life right.

In a spiritual sense, Abimelech speaks of the works of the flesh while his brothers represent the fruit of the Spirit. One manifestation of the flesh is enough to pull down the work of the Spirit. Any fleshy work that we do not allow the cross to deal with today will manifest tomorrow to destroy our life in the Spirit. This is a very serious matter. May the Lord have mercy on us all.

Abimelech must have thought he had out-smart God. He is now ruler over Shechem. But a time came when God visited him because of his brothers that he murdered. **“When Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel, Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:”** (Judges 9:22-23)

He must have thought no problem would come his way. But at the appointed time God visited his sins by raising the people of Shechem against him. He reacted violently and slaughtered a number of the people in that city. **“And Abimelech, and the company that was with him, rushed forward, and stood in the entering of the gate of the city: and the two other companies ran upon all the people that were in the fields, and slew them. And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and slew the people that was therein, and beat down the city, and sowed it with salt.”** (Judges 9:44-45)

“And all the people likewise cut down every man his bough, and followed Abimelech, and put them to the hold, and set the hold on fire upon them; so that

**all the men of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women.”
(Judges 9:49)**

He became very destructive and was bent on destroying the entire city. Now the people are in great distress. They need a deliverer from the hand of this mad man. But there was no one to resist his madness. He therefore pressed on to destroy the whole city. This he did until he got to Thebez. Then we read, **“Then went Abimelech to Thebez, and encamped against Thebez, and took it. But there was a strong tower within the city, and thither fled all the men and women, and all they of the city, and shut it to them, and gat them up to the top of the tower. And Abimelech came unto the tower, and fought against it, and went hard unto the door of the tower to burn it with fire. And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and all to brake his skull. Then he called hastily unto the young man his armourbearer, and said unto him, Draw thy sword, and slay me, that men say not of me, A woman slew him. And his young man thrust him through, and he died.”** (Judges 9:50-54)

Praise the Lord! Thank God there was a certain woman there. A woman not known with any name yet she brought deliverance to the city. The bible simply called her a certain woman. This is amazing! Such a courageous woman could remain so obscured in the Holy Book. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. Without this woman an entire city would have been wiped out. Yet, she remained silent. She never sought for name or fame.

This is the kind of woman the Lord is seeking for in His Churches today; women who will labour in silence. Women who will rescue sinners from the power of Satan. Satan is on rampage and the Lord is seeking for women who will resist him in the place of player. Women who will lift a piece of a millstone from the word of God and cast it upon Satan's head. **“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”** (Genesis 3:15)

We need to say this again that we should labour in the churches without being known. The most important thing is that the work of God progress. The only name we should promote is the names of Jesus Christ. We are very afraid with what we see today. The kind of flashing dressing we see on our pulpit today has not been encouraging. If there is anywhere in, the world where the principle of simplicity and modesty should be adhered to, he should be on our pulpits. Sisters in the Lord, we cannot go very far if we cannot bury ourselves and allow only Jesus to be seen.

We want to conclude this chapter by pointing out a very important issue. Let's look at verse 54 closely, **"Then he called hastily unto the young man his armourbearer, and said unto him, Draw thy sword, and slay me, that men say not of me, A woman slew him. And his young man thrust him through, and he died."** Abimelech would not allow a woman to take credit for his death. He prefers that they say he was killed by a woman.

He does not mind that a young man takes the glory as long as it's not a woman. Our sisters should not let this bother them. The name of Jesus is the only name that should be honored. It does not matter who takes the credit. Our sisters should avoid every form of competition with men in the ministry. The most important thing is that Abimelech should be killed. When he's dead, there will be peace. When he's dead, there will be spiritual progress. When he's dead life is saved. It does not matter do take the glory. This is the principle of God's work. We should not care where the glory goes to as long as God is being honored.

Let me illustrate this very practically. Let's say in an assembly, there some unsaved people. Now a woman in the church takes this up as a matter of prayer to God. She waited on God daily in prayer and fasting. She cried and poured out her burden to the Lord. When the Lord would answer her prayer, it was the pastor who preached and the people received the life of God. The pastor is seen to be full of grace. He receives honor from men (deliberately or otherwise). What should be the response of such a woman? She should go before God and give thanks.

Others may not recognize her work but the Lord does. The most important thing is that she has brought joy to heaven. Those who are saved may not even know that she travailed for their soul. She should be contented to be a certain woman. Unknown by men but well known in heaven. **“And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and all to brake his skull.”**

CHAPTER 3: THE YOUNG MAIDENS

There is an interesting story in first Samuel 9:11 – 13. It is very instructive for our young sisters and that makes it very interesting. Saul and his servants have been searching for their father's asses for some days. At the point of giving up, the servant urged Saul that they seek a prophet who can tell them where to find the asses. **“And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can shew us our way that we should go.” (1 Samuel 9:6)**

The words of the servant are very encouraging. He considered that the prophet is able to direct them even in a matter that looked so ordinary. How many of us would go to God in prayer when we misplaced material things? Let this encourage us. The Lord is interested in every detail of our lives. Rebecca was such a woman who prayed to God because of the movement in her womb and the Lord replied her with a revelation of what will happen in the future. Let us learn to take every matter to the Lord.

While the servant and Saul set out seek for the prophet they encountered a unique group of people. **“And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here? And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, he is before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place: As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.” (1 Samuel 9:11-13)**

They encountered a group of young girls whose names we were not told. The bible says, “they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here?” Again, we see the same principle. The young women are going to be playing an important role in the lives of Saul and his servant, but they are unknown. They were simply

referred to as 'young maidens.' We don't even know their number. May the Lord find workers who will labour together as one without any name among them being projected.

Their names made no contribution to our lives but their deeds speak to us. When they were asked about the prophets whereabouts their answer reveals that they were women of knowledge. **“And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, he is before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place: As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.”**

“HE IS; BEHOLD, HE IS BEFORE YOU”

They had words of assurance in their mouth. They did not stay there to start admiring Saul. Saul was a handsome man and the son of a rich man. There was none like him. He was a man every woman desired. **“Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power. And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.” (1 Samuel 9:1-2)**

Such a man could easily catch the attention of any young lady. Such a woman could distract any woman. Rather than point the man to God, the lady will point him to herself. Rather than convert him for Jesus, she secretly converts him to herself. But these young maidens said to him, “behold, he is before you.” They did not point them to themselves; they pointed them in the direction of the prophet. This is the first matter we are seeing about these young maidens.

Though young in the faith, they will not point men to themselves. The Lord must help our hearts in this matter. Attention seeking works will NEVER satisfy the heart of the Lord.

We must never draw people to ourselves. Our sisters in particular must watch this. The way your dress must not draw men to you. Avoid every kind of dressing that draws men to you. Everything we do to draw men to ourselves is a sin and we must repent from such works. We must say to people ‘behold, he is before you.’

The work of God in our generation has been greatly hindered by those who are attention seekers. The music ministry in particular has greatly suffered in this respect. Several of our sister who ministers in songs (we regrettably say) have been mostly attention seekers like those in the world. This is a very serious matter. The Lord will judge everyone and our works shall be made manifest. **“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” (Galatians 6:7-8)**

We may deceive men and the Church but we cannot deceive God. You may win award today and fame among men but heaven may not recon with you. It does not matter how famous we have been, the issue is whether we have pointed men to God. May the Lord be merciful and grant us light that we may see every dark part in our work. We don’t know the names of these young maidens but we are being edified by their lives. There was no ministry named after them but they pointed the future king of Israel to the throne. They themselves were not even aware that the man standing before them will one day rule over them.

That brother you are fornicating have a great destiny ahead of him. Why not point him to Jesus? Of what profit is your body to his soul? Why will you send men to hell? Sisters, have you considered this a serious matter? it is a serious matter in the heart of God. You are to show Jesus to men and nothing more. You may have a beautiful face, but the face that people must see is the face of Jesus. **“Be not deceived; God is not mocked.”**

“MAKE HASTE NOW”

They are serious minded young women. They do not delay the purpose of God. They said to Saul and his servants, 'make haste now, for he came here today.' They will not allow the men to delay their salvation. The haste they were to make is now. Oh, how I pray we will be a people hastening men into the kingdom of God. May we begin to say to people 'make haste now.' They were earnest in their attitude. When Saul and his servants heard these words, something in them will begin to move very fast. They now know that if they make haste, they could still find the prophet. Let us begin to say to men, **"MAKE HASTE NOW"**

"FOR HE CAME TO DAY TO THE CITY"

They were young maidens who have seen the prophet. They have experienced the prophet. They were sensitive to the movement of the prophet. How could they have directed Saul and his servant if they had not known the going out and coming in of the prophet.

You can only direct people to Christ if you are in tune with the Holy Spirit. You must not miss anything of the Spirit. You must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit to detect His movement within you. You must speak confidently about Him. Our experience with the Holy Spirit must be that of today. "While it is said, today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation." (Hebrews 3:15)

We must be current in our experience with the Holy Spirit. We must also be able to say, 'for he came today to the city.' This is a great word of assurance to anyone seeking Christ. May we be able to speak assuring words to all those seeking the Lord. Amen

"YE SHALL STRAIGHTWAY FIND HIM"

"And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, he is before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place: As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him."

They were indeed current in the Spirit. They knew why the prophet is came to the city. They understood the purpose of his visitation. Therefore, they could say to Saul and his servant, 'ye shall straightaway find him.' They know where the prophet could be found. They were sure it was time when the prophet could be found.

We need such experiences to be able to direct people to Christ. We should know that those who seek the Lord with all their heart shall find him. We must not present Christ as an idea or a distant God. He is with us every day. He is available to saves to the utmost those who call upon Him.

Our lives must reveal Christ to people around. They should not wait hundreds of years before they see the Lord. Whenever a person touches us, they must touch the son. Since He is only first born among many brethren. With us, people should be able to find Christ straightaway. **"As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him."** May the Lord make this our experience. As soon as people encounter our lives, they must find Jesus. Lord, let this be our experience.

"NOW THEREFORE GET YOU UP; FOR ABOUT THIS TIME YE SHALL FIND HIM."

"before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him."

They caused them to move. They gave them sufficient reason why they would find the prophet. They spur them from doctrine of finding the prophet to the pursuit of the prophet. Now therefore get you up. That means they were sitting down. They were relaxing and listening to the young woman.

Sisters, don't allow the men to rest in your bosom. Tell them to get up and move. Don't stop their search for the Lord. Encourage them to continue. Don't be a hindrance to men's pursuit of God. It is time to seek the Lord. Tell the brothers to get and move. They may

need your encouragement to move. You may be enjoying their company but remember that they are on a mission. Keep this in mind and let them move ahead.

Everyman is responsible for his actions. But don't be a stumbling block. Do not cause any brother to fall. "If anyone should cause one of these little ones to lose his faith in me, it would be better for that person to have a large millstone tied around his neck and be drowned in the deep sea." (Matthew 18:6 GNB)

The young sisters should help the young brothers to press on in the faith. The young men have the tendency of relaxing when they are in your company. They easily let off their guard and allow lust to fill their heart. You must prayerfully get them up from such situation. Tell them, "Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him." At about the time they are settling for sin, the Lord is standing by saying I am here. Point them to Jesus and not your body!

These young women were able to connect Saul to his destiny. They led him to the prophet. But their names were not known to us. This is the crux of the matter. our service should be such that seek nothing for itself. We must not name anything after ourselves. Our mission is to point people to Jesus. Only the name of Jesus is to be honored. **"And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens."** That was all we ever knew about them. May that be all that men would know about us. Amen

CHAPTER 4: THE WOMAN WITH A COVER

After his son Absalom has dethroned David, he (David) escaped to the wilderness. He however needed information on what was happening in the palace. He had to rely on the intelligence gathering of Jonathan and Ahimaaz. It was a very risky job. They themselves could not enter the city. They relied on a woman spy to go to the city and bring them information.

In the process of serving the king, Jonathan and Ahimaaz encountered two great women who became the key to their success. We know nothing of their names. It is not important. They did their job faithfully and their lives are still speaking today.

“Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by Enrogel; for they might not be seen to come into the city: and a wench went and told them; and they went and told king David. Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom: but they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man's house in Bahurim, which had a well in his court; whither they went down. And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground corn thereon; and the thing was not known. And when Absalom's servants came to the woman to the house, they said, Where is Ahimaaz and Jonathan? And the woman said unto them, They be gone over the brook of water. And when they had sought and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.” (2 Samuel 17:17-20)

The Good News Bible puts verse 17 this way, **“Abiathar's son Jonathan and Zadok's son Ahimaaz were waiting at the spring of Enrogel, on the outskirts of Jerusalem, because they did not dare be seen entering the city. A servant woman would regularly go and tell them what was happening, and then they would go and tell King David.” (2 Samuel 17:17 GNB).** the word wench as used in the King James Version is interpreted servant woman in the Good News Bible.

As we have seen from the previous women we have studied, we know nothing also about the names of these women. The first woman (described as servant woman) chooses to

be on the side of truth. It's amazing how she knew the side to support in such a complex situation. She could have given out the identity of the spies and gain the favour of the new head of government but she stood on the side of truth.

The second woman also chose to stand on the side truth. This was not an easy decision considering the circumstance in which these women found themselves. Even Ahithophel, David's counselor had deserted him. **“And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom. And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom. And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword. (2 Samuel 15:12-14)”**

It was therefore a great risk for ordinary women such as these to still stand on the side of truth. The tendency today is to become discouraged when we hear that another great man of God has fallen. We easily get discouraged and tempted “to be careful” how we stand for the truth. But not so with these women. They remained on the side of the truth (Christ) even when a great man of God like Ahithophel has fallen. **“And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong;”** Did you noticed what Ahithophel was doing when they came to call him into compromise. Look at what the Word of God says about him, **‘while he offered sacrifices.’** He was in active ministry when he fell. He was serving God when he compromised with the sinful son of David. Therefore, don't be surprise (and discouraged) when you hear news of compromise of “a great (or popular) man of God”.

These women could easily have said to themselves, ‘hey why risk our lives for David. His own son has deserted him and his best counselor has betrayed him. We better join in the compromise.’ And did you know that several of our sisters today have joined in the

compromise because people they esteemed greatly have at one point or the other compromised their lives. We must not depart from the way of the Lord no matter the level of compromise around us. Have you compromised in any areas of your life? I plead with you to repent and stand upon Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Another thing that these two women did was that they risked their lives for the truth. They put down their lives on the line for the sake of the truth. They were not ashamed of the truth. Some of our sisters are afraid of what people will say or do to them and have therefore decided to play it safe. If you believe in the truth (Jesus) then stand for the truth. **“Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by Enrogel; for they might not be seen to come into the city: and a wench went and told them; and they went and told king David. Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom: but they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man's house in Bahurim, which had a well in his court; whither they went down. And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground corn thereon; and the thing was not known.”**

These two women, though may not know each other worked as a team. The first woman helped them in getting the needed information while the second woman helped in keeping them safe when their lives were in danger. This is the unity Christ prayed for in the body of Christ. when the Lord brings a person across our path, we should humbly do our part in his life. God has arranged others who will do the rest. Don't neglect the people the Lord brings to your life. Help them to obtain the knowledge of God. God knows how preserve them and grow them to maturity.

There is a saying that women don't know how to keep secret. This should not be the case with daughters of God. The second woman in the passage preserved the lives of the king's servant. She made it a top secret. **“And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground corn thereon; and the thing was not known.”** She was a woman who knows how to keep secret. She does not go about revealing the things that has been confided in her. **“and the thing was not known.”**

CHAPTER 5: A LITTLE MAID

A particular young lady in the Bible lived a life that is worthy of emulation. A careless reader of the Bible may not notice the grace of God in the life of this young lady. Like the other women we've been studying, the Bible is silent on her name also. But her exploits are full of instructions that will be of great edification to Christians in our time. Here is her story.

Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy. (2 Kings 5:1-3)

You would probably have heard of the story of Naaman but not that of the little maid. She was an Israelite born to a Godly family. She was growing up like any proper child in the most powerful nation of her time. She was under the covenant of God and enjoyed the blessings of the most high God. Her parent loved her and were looking forward to the day when she would be giving in marriage as a virgin.

Everything was going on well for her until the day when the Syrians attacked Israel, killed several of them and took some as captives. The bible did not tell us whether her parent was killed in the raid but there is a probability that they were killed. In a single day, this young lady lost everything and was now completely in care of strangers. In the hands of men who don't know God neither honor Him. It's like taking an eight years old girl from US to Afghanistan as slave after her parent must have brutally killed.

And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. Her educational

career ended and she's now a slave attending to the wife of Gen. Naaman. This is the situation this young maid found herself. Ordinarily, we would expect this young lady to be bitter towards her captors. We would expect her to pray for their downfall and wished for calamity to fall on them.

Contrary to what we would have expected, this young lady demonstrated the grace of God upon her to us in a very instructive manner. She discovered that her master Naaman was a leper. Rather than make fun of him and see it as the hand of God upon Naaman she offered to help him by showing him where he could find solution to his problem. So, she went to her mistress and said, **'And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.'** Her words are filled with grace.

First, she called Naaman her lord as a sign of respect and loyalty. **'Would God my lord...'** This is in agreement with the words of Apostle Paul to the Church today. **'Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; (Ephesians 6:5).'** This little maid was operating with the mind of Christ. Unknown yet faithful! She has learnt to respect even those who have made her life miserable.

'Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.' She had confidence in the God of Israel. She knew God could heal any illness or disease. She spoke about God with great confidence. She knew where to point Naaman to. She loved her enemy and wanted him well. Remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, **'But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. (Matthew 5:44-45).'**

Are there people who have been unkind to you? Learn from this little maid and be good to them. Don't become disrespecting to people because you've been treated unjustly. Did you know that without the help of this little maid, Gen. Naaman would have died a leper? God may have allowed you to go through that rough path so that you will be a light to someone in the darkness.

This little maid did not get any credit or recognition for what she did. She did it unto the Lord. Do not seek the fame and recognitions of men. Don't start a programme on TV because you want to be seen. Don't just write a book because you want your picture on the cover. Most of these things are worldly methods of doing things which the Church have embraced. You can do great exploit without being known. However, if it pleased the Lord to give you a little fame, set not your heart on it.

Despite the effort of this little maid, Naaman still had problem with Elisha's method of healing so he left Israel in annoyance. But God sent other servants to complete the job the little maid had started. The bible says, **'And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean? Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. (2 Kings 5:10-14)**

The servants were not irritated by her master's behaviour but encouraged him to go for Elisha's prescription. Several of Christian brothers and sisters would have withdrawn and

justify their conscience that they've tried their best. Don't be discouraged brothers and sisters when you speak to people and they refuse to accept the Gospel truth. God will use your words but you may not be the person that will say the final word that will bring about their conversion. Therefore, say what God wants you to say, do what God wants you to do. God will bring other people who will perfect what you've started.

Noticed that the little girl was no more in view from verse four. Yet she was the architect of everything in that chapter. Without her, we would not have seen that miracle. But we don't even know the name of the little maid behind this story. My brothers and sisters, please be prepared to serve the Lord even if mean you'll never be known in the Church. Don't join those who are seeking fame in the name of the Lord. Learn from the life of these woman who were never known yet, did exploits for the Kingdom. May the Lord give us all a simple heart. Amen

CHAPTER 6: THE WOMAN WITH OINTMENT

All the women we've studied, are from the Old Testament. Let's now look at a woman in the New Testament. A woman whose style of ministry may provide answers to most of the questions regarding women in ministry. Here is her story as recorded in the scripture.

“And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head. And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her. And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her. (Mark 14:3-9)”

The Bible introduced her story with these words, **‘there came a woman’** She was simply a woman. a true woman. the type of woman that the Lord would want to have in the Church. A woman that does not need title or any position of authority before she could serve. Unknown and unacknowledged by the self-righteous people of her time; but she still found it worthy to serve the Lord. **‘there came a woman.’**

Many women think that they need to occupy position of authority in the Church before they can serve, but not so with this woman. **‘there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious’** She came with something very precious. She gave her best even when she would not be acknowledged. There are people who will not give their best unless they are in view of the public. Not so with this unknown woman; she served the Lord to a fault. Some women reserve their best for the employer. Some reserve their best for their husband. This woman brought her best to Jesus. She

located Jesus. That means she was only a step behind the savior. The Holy Spirit describes the ointment with these words, **‘very precious’**

It was not just precious but very precious. When God says something is very precious, we better be assured that it is very precious indeed. May we all bring that which is most precious to the service of the King of Glory.

‘and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.’ Her focus was solely on Jesus. She never cared to be known. She rendered her service to the head, which is Christ. The aim of her service was not to be known by men. She poured that which is most precious to her on the head of Jesus. Thou woman of God, thou will do well to make Jesus your only focus. I have seen women preachers who draw attention to themselves by their dressing.

Let us not serve in the flesh but in the newness of life. Let’s serve the Lord with a simple heart. The Church would grow rapidly if our focus will be on Jesus alone. And I want to ask you again, what are all those pictures of yours doing on your internet page? Why do you think you need your picture in your magazine? Would people not be reached without these pictures?

I think it’s time we examine ourselves to see whether we are still in the faith. This woman poured all her energy solely on Jesus. Another striking thing about the woman is this phrase, **‘and she brake the box’** Why did she have to break the box? I thought it would have been wise for her to pour the content on Jesus and preserve the container. But this woman knows something that most of us may not take to heart. She understood sanctification. In the Old Testament, any item used in the service of God, can no longer be used for any other purpose. It could only be used for the service of God. The item is said to be sanctified.

A Babylonian king who in his pride drank from the cup that has been used in the service of God was severely judged by the Lord. **“Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a**

thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone. In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. (Daniel 5:1-5,22-23,30)”

This woman understood the word God that much that she broke the box. Let me say that you and I are the alabaster box. You cannot serve God and mammon. You cannot be Godly and worldly. You cannot love God and the world. You cannot be useful for God and at the same time useful for worldliness. You cannot claim holiness and still be living in sin. You've got to make up your mind for one. If what you are looking for is fame, then you have nothing doing with the things of God. Once you've identified yourself with the work of God, you should never be identified with the works of darkness. **'and she brake the box'** Are you ready to brake your box? Ready only for the master's use.

'And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.'

This woman faced a major problem most women are faced with today. People were not satisfied with her quiet service. They wanted her to start a ministry for the poor. They wonder why a woman with such anointing should not be a minister. They made recommendation for her. But this woman was content to remain humbled and unknown, though known to God. My dear sister in the Lord, if you are content to serve God where He has placed you, you wouldn't need to be arguing whether women should be ordained or not. You don't need ordination to serve God. You don't need any title before you can render that which is precious to the Lord.

Even as a man, I have served the Lord for several years without access to any regular pulpit. At the time I am writing this book, I have no ministry registered in any name and I don't have a preaching schedule. But to the glory of God, I have been rendering my service to the body of Christ in the last eight years without being known. So, you can serve the Lord without causing any division in the Church.

What the Lord needs is that precious thing which you carry. Don't allow people who don't know the Lord deceive you into starting something in your name. They may even say to you that you are wasting away, but God is not seeing you that way. They may tell you of better ways to put your gift to use, please don't listen to them. Follow the pattern you've seen in the scriptures. Don't follow the multitude to do wrong.

Don't be afraid of the criticism of men. Even when you've rendered the best of service to the Lord, you will still be criticized. **'And there were some that had indignation within themselves,'** Let it be their problem. You just focus on Jesus. When men say it does not matter when you are walking with the Lord. Even when the comment comes from those who are Christians like yourself. Let not the murmuring of men distract you from the word of God.

'And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.' Don't fight back. Let Jesus rebuke men for your sake. Jesus rebuked those who

were accusing this woman. he told them to shut up. It's wonderful when we allow the Lord to rebuke men for our sake. That's why we must not take matter into our hands.

A time will come when the Lord will reveal to them that you are doing a great job for that matter. **'she hath wrought a good work on me.'** We can only imagine how shocked those people would be hearing this from Jesus. If it was the woman who made this statement, she would have been termed rude and rebellious. So, it was Good that she left the matter for the Lord to handle.

she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. Verily I say unto you, Whereas, the disciples who were to proclaim the gospel of the death and resurrection of the Lord were arguing with Jesus that He would not die; this woman believed the words of Jesus. She knew the Lord was going to die. That was why she came to anoint Him. Her service was motivated by the word of God and not by emotions.

This is an instruction every woman must pay serious attention. We must not start anything out of emotion but by the word of God. This woman heard Jesus talking about His death and she believed it. her faith in the word of God moved her to action. She acted based on the word of God. She was a woman of faith.

But all these does not make her an Apostle. Apostleship is by appointment. No human organization or person can make another an Apostle. They may call you by that name but that will not make you an Apostle. Peter argued with Jesus when Jesus told them about His death but this woman believed those words. However, Peter was still commissioned and the woman remained relatively unknown. Despite her encounter with Jesus, we never got to know her name. May God give you understanding of what am saying.

'Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.' Though condemned by men, she was rewarded by the Lord. You will be rewarded by the Lord. The Lord will not forget your labour of love.

CONTACT THE AUTHOR

WhatsApp: +2348186157852

Telegram: +2348186157852

Instagram: @OlusegunMokuolu

Facebook: @MokuoluOlusegun

x: @MokuoluOlusegun

YouTube: @OlusegunMokuolu

Website: www.livingthrone.org

*Other titles by Olusegun Mokuolu, **UNDERSTANDING MASTURBATION, COMPLETE BIBLICAL GUIDE FOR RELATIONSHIP MARRIAGE AND BACK TO THE BIBLE ON TITHES, OFFERINGS & FIRSTFRUITS** are available on Amazon. You can visit www.amazon.com/author/olusegunmokuolu*

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